



**BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.**  
Director

**MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Health Officer

**CYNTHIA A. HARDING, M.P.H.**  
Chief Deputy Director

313 North Figueroa Street, Room 806  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
TEL (213) 240-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov)

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January 9, 2019

Dear Hospital Chief Executive Officers and Chief Information Officers:

**CHANGE IN PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEANINGFUL USE  
FOR ALL ELIGIBLE HOSPITALS AND CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS IN LOS ANGELES  
COUNTY**

This letter is to inform you of a change in the process for meeting the federal Meaningful Use (MU) public health requirements for Syndromic Surveillance reporting in Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC/DPH) is the Public Health Agency (PHA) for statutory/mandatory Meaningful Use reporting in Los Angeles County.

The LAC/DPH is now able to accept and provide letters of attestation for MU syndromic surveillance reporting from eligible hospitals (EHs) and critical access hospitals (CAHs) who have emergency rooms. All EHs and CAHs operating in Los Angeles County who want to meet the MU public health syndromic surveillance reporting measure must report and electronically submit the appropriate data for syndromic surveillance to the LAC/DPH.

Reporting *syndromic surveillance data* directly to Federal, State or Regional systems does not qualify eligible hospitals or CAHs for Meaningful Use, unless an exemption has been obtained directly from the LAC/DPH.

Our other specific MU public health reporting requirements for Los Angeles County are as follows:

- **Immunization Registry Reporting:** EHs and CAHs administering immunizations during the reporting period and interested in submitting EHR HL7 2.5.1 immunization messages to LAC/DPH to meet the Stage 1 or Stage 2 Meaningful Use Immunization Measure may do so by registering with the California Department of Public Health – HIE Gateway/CAIR IZ Portal at <https://igs.cdph.ca.gov/cair/>.

On July 1, 2016, the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) has declared its readiness to meet the Stage 3 meaningful use immunization measure. If submitters are interested in meeting the Stage 3 meaningful use immunization measure in 2019, please visit <https://igs.cdph.ca.gov/cair/> for further information.

- **Electronic Reportable Laboratory Results (ELR):** EHs and CAHs should send electronic reportable laboratory results to LAC/DPH to meet this meaningful use measure by registering with the California Department of Public Health – HIE Gateway at <https://hiegateway.cdph.ca.gov/account/register.aspx>.

Please note that MU data transmissions to the LAC/DPH are specified in statute under the Code of Federal Regulations' Standards for The Electronic Health Record Technology Incentive Program's General Provisions.<sup>1</sup> In addition, LAC/DPH is a covered entity under HIPAA and, as such, must comply with HIPAA regulations when handling data containing protected health information (PHI). Therefore, Data Use Agreements (DUAs) are not required for transmission of syndromic surveillance and other MU data to LAC/DPH.

If you are an EH or CAH with an emergency room and are not currently submitting syndromic surveillance data to the LAC/DPH, please contact [meaningfuluse@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:meaningfuluse@ph.lacounty.gov) to schedule your data connection or to ask questions.

In order to meet the requirement of active engagement for the syndromic surveillance measure please email your intent to submit syndromic surveillance data from your emergency department to [meaningfuluse@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:meaningfuluse@ph.lacounty.gov).

Public health is data driven. The data and information your hospital provides to LAC/DPH greatly helps us to identify, communicate, track, and respond to public health issues or threats and to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone living in, working in or visiting Los Angeles County.

With appreciation,



Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., MPH, M.Ed.  
Director

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<sup>1</sup> 42 CFR – Public Health, Chapter IV, Subchapter G §495.24 - Stage 3 meaningful use objectives and measures for EPs, eligible hospitals and CAHs for 2019 and subsequent years. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2018-title42-vol5/xml/CFR-2018-title42-vol5-sec495-24.xml>.